

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/767,209

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Figure 4 has been corrected to denote the arrow with reference numeral --22'--, and Figure 7 has been corrected to denote the hole 22 instead as --22"--.

Attachment: **2 Annotated Sheets**
2 Replacement Sheets

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REMARKS

Claims 1-5 presently are pending. Reconsideration and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

The Examiner has acknowledged the claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, as well as receipt of the certified copy of the priority document.

The Examiner has also indicated that the drawings filed together with the application on January 30, 2004 are acceptable.

The Examiner has also returned an initialed copy of the modified PTO/SB/08 Form thereby indicating that he has considered the references listed thereon.

The Examiner has acknowledged the Response to Election of Species filed on September 19, 2005. The Examiner indicates that claims 4 and 5 are withdrawn from further consideration as being drawn to a non-elected species. Applicant again reminds the Examiner that if any of the elected claims are found to be allowable, claims dependent therefrom should similarly be considered allowable in the same application.

Applicant duly affirms the election requirement by this response.

Applicant has reviewed the specification and made minor editorial corrections by this Amendment.

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With respect to the drawings, in Figures 3 and 4, both “arrow 22” and “engagement section 22” use the same reference numeral. Moreover, in Figure 7, “hole 22” also utilizes the reference numeral 22.

In this regard, the drawings have been corrected to denote the arrow with reference numeral --22’-- and denote the hole 22 in Figure 7 as --22''--.

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,781,634 (Shiozaki et al.). Further, claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shiozaki et al. in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2004/0165108 (Okuda). For the following reasons, these rejections are respectfully traversed.

The present invention relates to a recording media protecting mechanism in which a turn-on and turn-off operating section for a power switch is disposed at a position of locking and unlocking open and close of a cover 20 of a recording media holding section in accordance with turn-on and turn-off of the power switch.

In the rejection of claims 1 and 2 under § 102(e), the Examiner maintains that Shiozaki et al. (hereinafter Shiozaki) disclose all the recitations of the noted claims including a recording media protecting mechanism 16 (referencing Figures 1, 2 and 5) in which a turn-on and turn-off operating section for a power switch (referencing element 23 and Fig. 5) is disposed at a position of locking and unlocking open and close of a cover 16 of a recording media holding section 21 in accordance with turn-on and turn-off of the power switch (referencing column 7, line 53 through column 8, line 23).

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Regarding claim 2, the Examiner maintains that Shiozaki discloses the mechanism being for a digital camera and the cover of the recording media holding section is locked during the camera on duty state.

Shiozaki relates to an electronic camera which includes a main power supply switch button 5 provided on top of the front cover part 1 of the camera and for on-off operating a power supply of the camera.

The camera includes a lid sensor switch 23 and a recess switch 24 provided adjacent to each other near the free edge of a memory card cover lid 16. The lid sensor switch 23 can detect the open and closed states of the memory card cover lid 16. The lid sensor switch detects the closed state of the memory card cover lid 16, when it is depressed by a projection (16a?) provided on part of the memory card cover lid 16. Shiozaki further discloses that the power supply is forcibly turned off when the card lid sensor switch 23 detects the opening of the memory card cover lid 16 while the power supply is “on” in either a recording or a playing state of the electronic camera. Thus, the power source is turned off in response to the opening of the memory card lid 16, and when removing the memory card 31 from the memory card accommodating part 22, the power supply is reliably held “off” and the data in the memory card 31 is protected.

Thus, the lid sensor switch 23 of Shiozaki appears to be closer in operation to the prior art device discussed on page 3 in the Background section of the present application. For that reason, the lid sensor switch 23, which apparently is electrically connected to the power supply of the

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camera, would be susceptible to the same malfunctions described with respect to the prior art device discussed on page 3 of the subject application.

More importantly, while the lid sensor switch 23 apparently is electrically connected with respect to the power supply of the camera, this detector switch is not in fact the main power supply switch which, as noted above, is the power supply switch button 5. Moreover, the lid sensor switch 23 clearly has nothing whatsoever to do with physically or mechanically locking the cover 16 in the device of Shiozaki. Clearly, Applicant's recording media protecting mechanism includes a turn-on and turn-off operating section which not only turns on and off the power switch but is disposed at a position of locking and unlocking open and close of the cover of a recording media holding section in accordance with turn-on and turn-off of the power switch. In short, the lid sensor switch 23 is a detector and not the main power switch and clearly has nothing to do with locking or unlocking the opening and closing of the cover 16.

Independent claim 1 has been amended in order to clarify that when the turn-on and turn-off section turns on the power switch the turn-on and turn-off section also physically locks the cover to prevent opening thereof, and when the turn-on and turn-off section turns off the power switch the turn-on and turn-off section also unlocks the cover to permit opening thereof. The amendment sets forth more explicitly what is already implicitly set forth in original claim 1. The purpose of the amendment is to further clarify the fact that the turning on and turning off of the power switch by the turn-on and turn-off section also physically locks the cover to prevent opening thereof. This feature is clearly missing from Shiozaki.

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With respect to claim 2, the Examiner has failed to show how lid sensor switch 23 has anything to do with physically locking the cover 16 when the camera is on duty.

With respect to dependent claim 3, Okuda fails to make up for the deficiencies of Shiozaki as set forth in detailed above. More specifically, Okuda simply discloses a digital camera having a display cover 4 which is configured to slide in the directions of left and right within a predetermined sliding range. While the electric power switch is turned on and off when the display cover 4 and the lens/strobe flash cover 5 are opened and closed, respectively, Okuda fails to teach or suggest anything remotely close to combining such turning-on and turning-off of the power switch with the added feature of physically locking a cover of a recording media holding section to prevent opening thereof.

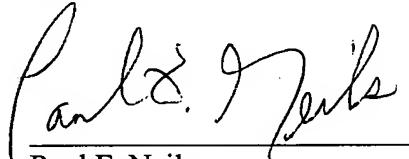
Applicant has made a minor editorial change to dependent claim 3, as well as non-elected, dependent claim 4.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Annotated Sheet

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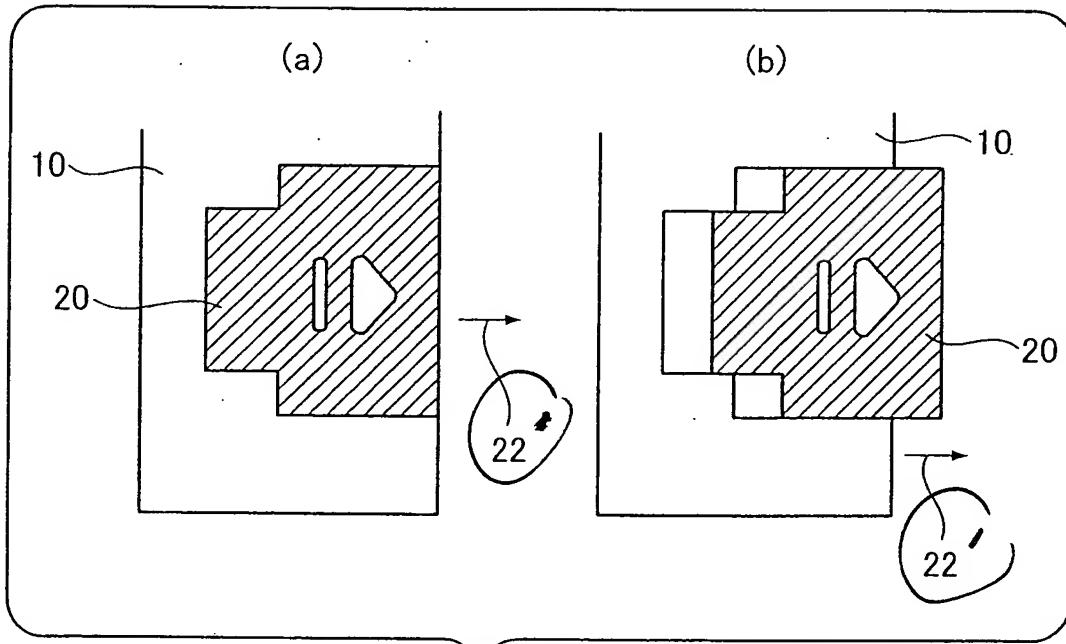


Fig.4

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Annotated Sheet

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Fig.5

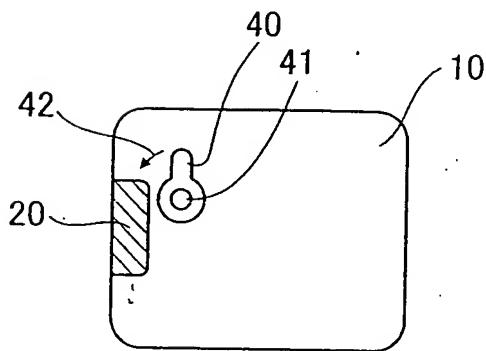


Fig.6

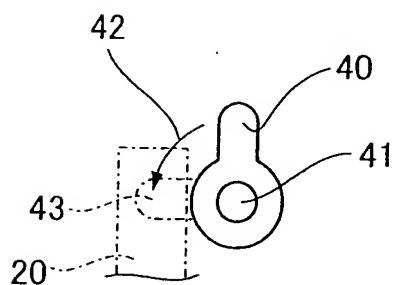


Fig.7

